

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 00234 070637Z

13

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 INR-07 CIAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05

NSCE-00 /037 W

----- 076441

R 070513Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9571

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0234

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TH, CH, KN

SUBJECT: THAI TRADE DELEGATION TO PYONGYANG

REF: BANGKOK 99

BEGIN SUMMARY: I MET JANUARY 6 WITH ANAN PANYARACHUN, THE THAI AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES WHO WAS ALSO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE THAI TRADE DELEGATION THAT RECENTLY VISITED PYONGYANG AND PEKING. ANAN WAS QUITE FORTHCOMING ABOUT HIS TRIP. HE NOTED NORTH KOREAN EAGERNESS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THAILAND, THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND CLEANLINESS OF PYONGYANG, AND THE PERVASIVE TRIBUTES TO KIM IL SUNG. END SUMMARY.

1. ANAN SAID THE OBVIOUS NORTH KOREAN OBJECTIVE IN WELCOMING THE THAI DELEGATION WAS TO ENCOURAGE THAILAND TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. HE SAID THE NORTH KOREANS SEEMED EAGER ABOUT THE GOAL, AND THAT THE NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD ARRIVE IN BANGKOK TOMORROW IF THE RTG GAVE THE GO AHEAD. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT - CONTRARY TO THE ARTICLE IN "THE NATION" - HIS DELEGATION HAD MADE NO SUCH COMMITMENT TO THE NORTH KOREANS, NOR HAD IT BEEN EMPOWERED TO DO SO. HE OBSERVED THAT THE NET DIPLOMATIC BALANCE WAS SWINGING IN FAVOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 00234 070637Z

OF NORTH KOREA OVER THE LAST THREE OR FOUR YEARS. MORE

AND MORE COUNTRIES WERE RECOGNIZING THE NORTH KOREANS WHILE THE NUMBER OF WHOSE RECOGNIZING THE SOUTH REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE. AS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, NORTH KOREA IMPOSED NO STIPULATION THAT THAILAND BREAK RELATIONS WITH THE SOUTH.

2. ANAN MENTIONED THAT THE TRADE DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON THE EXPORT FROM THAILAND TO NORTH KOREA OF JUTE BAGS AND RUBBER, AND THE IMPORTATION FROM NORTH KOREA OF FERTILIZER AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS.

3. ANAN, WHO HAD ALSO VISITED SOUTH KOREA IN RECENT YEARS, WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND CLEANLINESS OF PYONGYANG. HE SAID THAT IT GAVE A MUCH BETTER IMPRESSION THAN PEKING. HE LIKENED THE KOREANS TO THE GERMANS, DESCRIBING THEM AS HARD WORKING AND INDUSTRIOUS. HE CITED NORTH KOREAN AGRICULTURAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND THE EXPORT OF 200,000 TONS OF RICE DURING 1973. HE DESCRIBED PYONGPANG'S SUBWAY AS GIVING AN EXCEPTIONALLY STABLE RIDE AND AN APPEARANCE OF GREAT CLEANLINESS, WITH MOSAIC PORTRAITS OF KIM IL SUNG AT EVERY STOP. HE ALSO VISITED THE CHILDREN'S PALACE WHERE 10,000 YOUNGSTERS GATHER AFTER SCHOOL IN THE AFTERNOON TO PURSUE THEIR FANCIES: PING-PONG, WEAVING, OR POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION. HE SAID THAT PUBLIC HOUSING WAS COLORFUL AND ARCHITECTURALLY PLEASING, AND THE PEOPLE APPEARED HAPPY. THERE WERE FEW INDIVIDUALS IN UNIFORM ON THE STREETS OF THE CAPITAL. ANAN WAS ALSO IMPRESSED THAT THE NORTH KOREANS, BY MANUFACTURING EVERYTHING THEY COULD, HAD ACHIEVED MUCH OF THIS PROGRESS ON THEIR OWN, BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT THE QUALITY OF THE STEEL WAS LOW. PUBLIC SPEECHES AND PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS CONTAINED FREQUENT REFERENCES TO THE GLORIOUS LEADER, KIM IL SUNG. ANAN SAID HE GOT NO FEEL WHETHER THE LEADERSHIP WAS INCLINING TOWARD PEKING OR THE SOVIET UNION, BUT MENTIONED THAT KOREAN LEADERS WERE QUITE YOUNG. HE CITED A SUAVE 46 YEAR OLD FOREIGN MINISTER AS A PRIME EXAMPLE.

4. ANAN SAID THAT THE NORTH KOREANS HAD INITIALLY BEEN DISAPPOINTED THAT THAILAND HAD SENT ONLY A DEPUTY MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 00234 070637Z

OF COMMERCE, BUT THEY WERE PLEASED THAT SOMEONE OF AMBASSADORIAL RANK WAS IN THE DELEGATION, AND PARTICULARLY WITH ANAN BECAUSE THEY WERE AWARE OF THE REPUTATION HE HAD ACHIEVED AT THE UN. HE SAID THE NORTH KOREANS WERE NOT AT EASE FOR THE FIRST COUPLE DAYS OF THE VISIT, BUT SEEMED TO RELAX CONSIDERABLY BY THE THIRD AND LAST DAY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT HOSTED THE THAI DELEGATION, AND THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE

MINISTER OF TRADE HAD FIGURED PROMINNENTLY IN THE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WERE NOT ALLOWED TO PICK PLACES AT RANDOM TO VISIT, BUT THE AUSTRALIANS HAD HAD THE SAME PROBLEM UNTIL THEY FORMALLY RECOGNIZED NORTH KOREA, AFTER WHICH THEY COULD ROAM FREELY THROUGH THE CITY. THE CONVERSATIONS WERE CARRIED ON IN ENGLISH THROUGH AN INTERPRETER OF MEDIOCRE QUALIFICATIONS.

5. ANAN GAVE ME A COPY OF THE NORTH KOREAN WELCOMING STATEMENT TO THE THAI DELEGATION WHICH WE WILL SEND BY POUCH.
KINTNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO00234
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750005-0997
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750174/aaaacmyz.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 BANGKOK 99
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI TRADE DELEGATION TO PYONGYANG
TAGS: ETRD, TH, CH, KN, (PANYARACHUN, ANAN)
To: STATE SEOUL
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006